

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003  
4

Call Item 4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1080

5 By: Representative C. Johnson  
6 By: Senator Wilkins  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DUTIES AND FOCUS OF THE  
11 OFFICE FOR TEACHER RECRUITMENT WITHIN THE  
12 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DUTIES AND FOCUS OF  
15 THE OFFICE FOR TEACHER RECRUITMENT  
16 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-310 is amended to read as follows:

23 6-17-310. Office for the purpose of teacher recruitment.

24 (a)(1) There is established within the Department of Education an  
25 office for the purpose of teacher recruitment for ensuring that the children  
26 of our state are taught by highly qualified professionals.

27 (2) The office shall serve as an interagency center focused on  
28 teacher recruitment ~~and retention~~.

29 (b) The office shall have the following duties:

30 (1) To develop, disseminate, and distribute written materials  
31 and video productions on the importance of teaching as a profession,  
32 emphasizing the critical need for teachers in certain geographical areas of  
33 the state and the availability of financial scholarships to college students  
34 in exchange for service as a licensed teacher in the geographical critical-  
35 need area, as identified by the Department of Education to assist the  
36 Department of Higher Education;



1 (2) To encourage teachers' aides and paraprofessionals in the  
2 public schools to pursue a college education that will enable them to become  
3 licensed teachers, and to inform all assistant teachers of the availability  
4 of financial scholarships to both full-time and part-time college students  
5 under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;

6 (3) To actively recruit, both within the state and out of state,  
7 teachers to render service to the state as licensed teachers in a  
8 geographical area of the state or subject-matter area where there exists a  
9 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education,  
10 ~~while receiving a scholarship to pursue a Master of Education degree at an~~  
11 ~~institution of higher education under the University Assisted Teacher~~  
12 ~~Recruitment and Retention Grant Program;~~

13 (4) To actively recruit, both within the state and out of state,  
14 nonpracticing licensed teachers to return to the teaching profession to  
15 render service as licensed teachers in a public school district in a  
16 geographical area of the state and a subject-matter area where there is a  
17 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the state board;

18 (5) To recruit retired teachers who are willing to teach either  
19 full time or part time in public school programs; ~~and~~

20 (6) To notify teachers of the availability of incentives,  
21 including, but not limited to, forgivable loans and scholarships for persons  
22 who render service to the state as licensed teachers in a geographical area  
23 of the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers in a subject-  
24 matter area, as designated by the board; and

25 (7) Develop a statewide database for tracking Arkansas' educator  
26 workforce to give the state the ability it currently lacks in tracking  
27 Arkansas' ongoing process toward increasing the number of well-prepared and  
28 highly-skilled teachers in high-poverty and high-priority schools or  
29 districts.

30 (c) The office shall also provide leadership for the following  
31 initiatives:

32 (1) Initiate and monitor high school programs for teacher  
33 recruitment;

34 (2) Initiate and monitor college-level programs for teacher  
35 recruitment;

36 (3)(A) Facilitating articulation agreements between two-year

1 colleges and four-year higher education institutions to capitalize on the  
 2 associates of arts candidates of two-year campuses for the purpose of  
 3 recruiting candidates from underrepresented minorities.

4 (B) The Department of Higher Education shall assist the  
 5 office with the measure required under subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this section;

6 (4) Develop a plan to provide financial rewards to colleges and  
 7 universities that prepare teachers and administrators from underrepresented  
 8 minorities as well as teachers and administrators who teach in geographical  
 9 areas of the state with a shortage of teachers or subject-matter areas with a  
 10 shortage of teachers, or both;

11 ~~(3)(5)~~ Provide additional scholarships for any targeted  
 12 populations or geographical areas of the state needing potential teachers;

13 ~~(4)(6)~~ Provide assistance to local school districts in  
 14 identifying and locating specific teacher needs;

15 ~~(5)(7)~~ Provide leadership and assistance to schools for  
 16 developing Teachers of Tomorrow programs and future teacher clubs;

17 ~~(6)(8)~~ Coordinate an annual teacher-recruitment conference;

18 ~~(7)(9)~~ Promote Grow Your Own Teacher projects;

19 ~~(8)~~ Assist two-year colleges with developing articulation  
 20 agreements with four-year colleges to coordinate programs for students  
 21 interested in entering the field of teaching; and

22 ~~(9)(10)~~ Coordinate teacher recruitment and retention activities  
 23 with the Department of Higher Education;

24 (11) Develop programs to provide incentives to high-priority  
 25 schools or districts to encourage changes in teaching and learning  
 26 environments, to help prevent high-quality teachers from leaving for other  
 27 schools and to create the instructional environments that give all students  
 28 the opportunity to achieve high academic standards;

29 (12) Develop programs to promote innovative partnerships between  
 30 schools and health and social service agencies to ensure that students'  
 31 noneducational needs are addressed through appropriate and effective  
 32 mechanisms that do not become barriers to teaching and learning; and

33 (13) Develop programs to promote partnerships between teachers  
 34 and education programs and grades prekindergarten through twelve (preK-12)  
 35 school districts with emphasis on partnerships that prepare teachers and  
 36 administrators to work in high-priority schools or districts.

1           (d) The Department of Education shall develop a supplemental funding  
 2 program to be known as the "High-Priority Teacher Recruitment Program" that:

3                   (1) Provides financial rewards to colleges and universities that  
 4 prepare teachers and administrators from underrepresented minorities as well  
 5 as teachers and administrators who teach in high-priority schools or school  
 6 districts, or both;

7                   (2) Provides incentives to high-priority schools or districts to  
 8 encourage changes in teaching and learning environments, to help prevent  
 9 high-quality teachers from leaving for other schools and to create the  
 10 instructional environments that give all students the opportunity to achieve  
 11 high academic standards;

12                   (3) Fund innovative partnerships between schools and health and  
 13 social service agencies to ensure that students' noneducational needs are  
 14 addressed through appropriate and effective mechanisms that do not become  
 15 barriers to teaching and learning; and

16                   (4) Fund partnerships between teacher education programs and  
 17 grades prekindergarten through twelve (preK-12) school districts with  
 18 emphasis on partnerships that prepare teachers and administrators to work in  
 19 high-priority schools or districts.

20           (e) For purposes of this section, a "high-priority school or district"  
 21 means a school or school district with:

22                   (1) Seventy-five percent (75%) or more of its students scoring  
 23 below-proficient on fourth grade or eighth grade benchmark exams in the two  
 24 (2) immediately preceding school years; or

25                   (2) Unacceptably wide achievement gaps as determined by the  
 26 Department of Education in conjunction with the Committee on Closing the  
 27 Achievement Gap in Arkansas.

28           ~~(d)~~(f) By June 30, 2004 and annually thereafter, the Department of  
 29 Education shall provide a report to the Governor and the House Interim  
 30 Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education  
 31 regarding the activities of the office and the progress made in improving  
 32 teacher recruitment.

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